(c) and (d). As a result of the economic sanctions, exports to Iraq and Kuwait came down to Rs. 117.18 cross during 1990-91 (Prov.) as against Rs. 323.63 crores during 1989-90 (Prov.).

Export of Rice

1728. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets fixed for export of rice; and

(b) the out come thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The inclusion of rice with in the ambit of the Exim Scrips Scheme enhanced the competitiveness of Indian rice. Export procedures have also been simplified by plaoing non-basmati rice under the Open General License and relaxing the stipulations of compulsory pre-shipment inspection.

(b) During the period from 1st April, 1991 to 31st January, 1992, the export of rice has been to the tune of 5,36,800 MTs valued at Rs. 492.89 crore.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Bench of Rajasthan High Court at Udaipur

1729. SHRI PHERU LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan to establish a bench of Rajasthan High court at Udaipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARMANGALAM): (a): No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Operation Goodwill

1730. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian army have launched operation goodwill in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the main objectives thereof; and

(c) to what extent these objectives have been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). Operation "GOODWILL" was launched by the Army in the Kashmir Valley on the 25th of December 1991. It is an ongoing civic action programme for infusing confidence amongst the local population and providing basic assistance for health, hygiene, sanitation measures etc. besides primary medical aid, a number of specialised medical camps have been organised at various places and programmes for rehabilitation of widows and destitute, repairs of school buildings, construction of bus sheds improvement of water channels, maintenance, of Ziarat, establishment of wood carving and handicraft centres, planting of saplings, construction of children parks, play grounds and organisation of sports activities have been undertaken, and public grievances and development projects have been pursued with the civil administration.

Golden Hand Shake Scheme in Banks

1731. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the 'Golden Hand Shake Scheme' to nationalised banks also;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for

'Golden Hand Shake Scheme' for nationalised banks.

Changes in System of Customs Duty Collection

1732. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Revenue Service Association have suggested some structural changes in the present system of customs duty collection;

(b) if so, the salient features of these suggestions; and

(c) the number of these suggestions accepted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Certain suggestions have been received from the Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise) Association on simplification of customs procedures.

(b) The salient features of these suggestions are as follows:

(a) Introduction of Green Channel for cargo clearance;

(b) Provision for issue of Advance Classification Advices;

(c) Provision for a system of Advance Assessment of Bills of Entry;

(d) Introduction of Self-Assessment procedure;

(e) Selective testing of samples and use of testing facilities of reputed private laboratories;

(f) Review and weeding out of tariff notifications;

(g) Staggering of assessment work on the appraisers table;

(h) Shifting of some of the apperaisement work to docks and warehouses;

(i) Early computerisation of various technical areas in the Custom Houses and docks including processing of documents on the computer;

(j) Improvement of the testing facilities; and

(k) Strengthening of the intelligence and investigative set up.

(c) Suggestions have been received on 31st January, 1992. Discussions have been initiated already with Collectors. Further discussions are due to take place before decisions are taken.

[*Translation*]

Foreign Debt

1733. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable increase in the foreign debt during the financial year 1991-92;

(b) if so, the details of the debt at present;

(c) whether any time bound plan has been prepared by the Government to repay this debt;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and